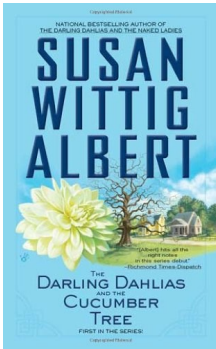


# Mysteries for Lunch 2017

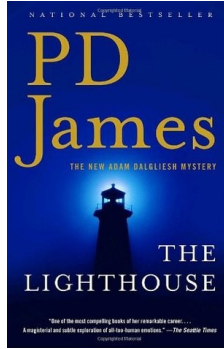
Meets on the first Thursday of the month at noon.



**January 5**

*The Darling Dahlias & the Cucumber Tree*

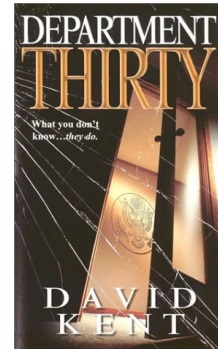
By Susan Wittig Albert



**February 2**

*The Lighthouse*

By P.D. James



**March 2**

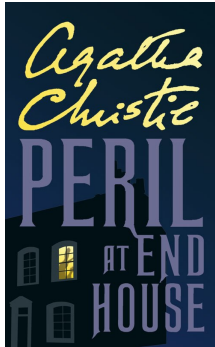
*Department Thirty*

By David Kent

**April 6**

*Peril at End House*

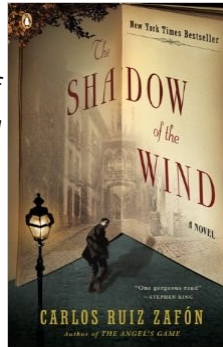
By Agatha Christie



**May 4**

*The Shadow of the Wind*

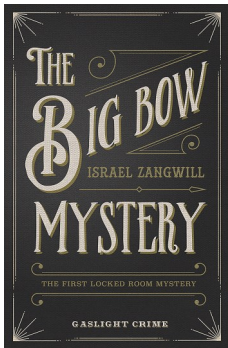
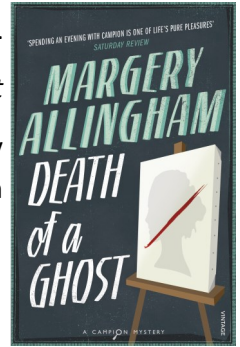
By Carlos Ruiz Zafón



**June 1**

*Death of a Ghost*

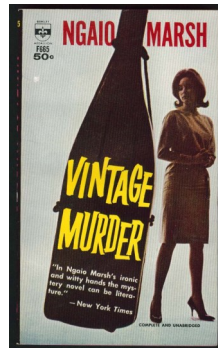
By Margery Allingham



**July 6**

*The Big Bow Mystery*

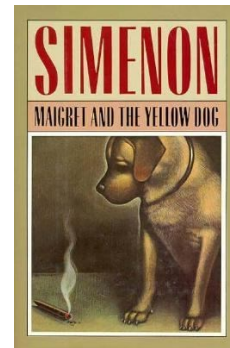
By Israel Zangwill



**August 3**

*Vintage Murder*

By Ngaio Marsh



**September 7**

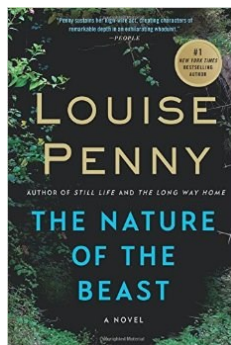
*Maigret and the Yellow Dog*

By Georges Simenon

**October 5**

*The Nature of the Beast*

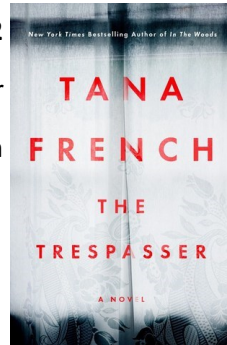
By Louise Penny



**November 2**

*The Trespasser*

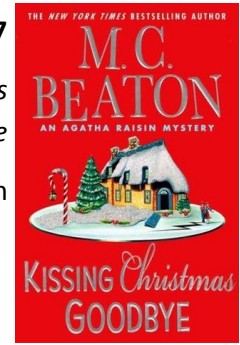
By Tana French



**December 7**

*Kissing Christmas Goodbye*

By M.C. Beaton



## Mysteries for Lunch 2017 Book Summaries

**January 5: *The Darling Dahlias & the Cucumber Tree* By Susan Wittig Albert** When local blond bombshell Bunny Scott is found in a suspicious car wreck, the Dahlias decide to dig into the town's buried secrets, and club members Lizzy, Ophelia, and Verna soon find leads sprouting up faster than weeds. The town is all abuzz with news of an escaped convict from the prison farm, rumors of trouble at the bank, and tales of a ghost heard digging around the cucumber tree. If anyone can get to the root of these mysteries, it's the Darling Dahlias.

**February 2: *The Lighthouse* By P.D. James** Combe Island off the Cornish coast is a restful haven for the elite. But when one of its distinguished visitors is found hanging from the island's famous lighthouse in what appears to have been a murder, the peace is shattered. Commander Adam Dalgliesh is called in to handle the sensitive case, but at a difficult time for him and his depleted team. After a second brutal killing, the whole investigation is jeopardized, and Dalgliesh is faced with a danger even more insidious than murder.

**March 2: *Department Thirty* By David Kent** Ryan Elder was an ordinary college kid when his life was torn apart by his parents' shattering double suicide. Years later, still haunted by his loss, he's tried to bury the past and live a normal life, but out of the blue, Ryan receives a battered letter containing only a phone number and the words "Department Thirty" -- written in his mother's hand. Lured back to his boyhood home in Oklahoma City, he begins to unravel his parents' connections to a mysterious government agency, a web of assassination and betrayal, and a menacing, shadowy figure who knows Ryan's past. Ryan must now find out why he has become the next puppet in a legacy of deception -- and who is pulling the strings.

**April 6: *Peril at End House* By Agatha Christie** Nick Buckley was an unusual name for a pretty young woman. But then she had led an unusual life. First, on a treacherous Cornish hillside, the brakes on her car failed. Then, on a coastal path, a falling boulder missed her by inches. Later, an oil painting fell and almost crushed her in bed. Upon discovering a bullet-hole in Nick's sun hat, Hercules Poirot decides the girl needs his protection. At the same time, he begins to unravel the mystery of a murder that hasn't been committed. Yet.

**May 4: *The Shadow of the Wind* By Carlos Ruiz Zafón** Barcelona, 1945: A city slowly heals in the aftermath of the Spanish Civil War, and Daniel, an antiquarian book dealer's son who mourns the loss of his mother, finds solace in a mysterious book entitled *The Shadow of the Wind*, by one Julián Carax. But when he sets out to find the author's other works, he discovers someone has been systematically destroying every copy of every book Carax has written. In fact, Daniel may have the last of Carax's books in existence. Daniel's seemingly innocent quest opens a door into one of Barcelona's darkest secrets--an epic story of murder, madness, and doomed love.

**June 1: *Death of a Ghost* By Margery Allingham** The first killing took place at a crowded art show, in full view of the cream of London society. For the second killing, only the victim and the murderer were present. Now the scene was set for the third--a lavish dinner party with vintage wines, and with Albert Campion's death as the main course.

**July 6: *The Big Bow Mystery* By Israel Zangwill** In the Big Bow District of London, Mrs. Drabdump becomes fearful for her lodger. She knocks several times at his door but no answer. She runs to Inspector Grodman and together they break down his door to find the poor man lying in his bed with his throat cut. The door was locked from the inside. Written in 1891, *Big Bow Mystery* still retains its power to amuse and entertain, both as a clever mystery and a satire of Victorian London.

**August 3: *Vintage Murder* By Ngaio Marsh** The leading lady of a theater company touring New Zealand was stunningly beautiful. No one, including her lover, understood why she married the company's pudgy producer. But did she rig a huge jeroboam of champagne to kill her husband during a cast party? Did her sweetheart? Or was another villain waiting in the wings? On a holiday down under, Inspector Roderick Alleyn must uncork this mystery and uncover a devious killer.

**September 7: *Maigret and the Yellow Dog* By Georges Simenon** The leading lady of a theater company touring New Zealand was stunningly beautiful. No one, including her lover, understood why she married the company's pudgy producer. But did she rig a huge jeroboam of champagne to kill her husband during a cast party? Did her sweetheart? Or was another villain waiting in the wings? On a holiday down under, Inspector Roderick Alleyn must uncork this mystery and uncover a devious killer.

**October 5: *The Nature of the Beast* By Louise Penny** Hardly a day goes by when nine year old Laurent Lepage doesn't cry wolf. From alien invasions, to walking trees, to winged beasts in the woods, to dinosaurs spotted in the village of Three Pines, his tales are so extraordinary no one can possibly believe him. But when the boy disappears, the villagers are faced with the possibility that one of his tall tales might have been true. What they uncover deep in the forest sets off a sequence of events that leads to murder, leads to an old crime, leads to an old betrayal. Armand Gamache, the former head of homicide for the Sûreté du Québec, must face the possibility that, in not believing the boy, he himself played a terrible part in what happens next.

**November 2: *The Trespasser* By Tana French** Being on the Murder squad is nothing like Detective Antoinette Conway dreamed it would be. Her partner, Stephen Moran, is the only person who seems glad she's there. The rest of her working life is a stream of thankless cases, vicious pranks, and harassment. Antoinette is savagely tough, but she's getting close to the breaking point. Their new case looks like yet another by-the-numbers lovers' quarrel gone bad. Aislinn Murray is blond, pretty, groomed to a shine, and dead in her catalogue-perfect living room, next to a table set for a romantic dinner. There's nothing unusual about her—except that Antoinette's seen her somewhere before. Antoinette knows the harassment has turned her paranoid, but she can't tell just how far gone she is. Is this case another step in the campaign to force her off the squad, or are there darker currents flowing beneath its polished surface?

**December 7: *Kissing Christmas Goodbye* By M.C. Beaton** Agatha Raisin is bored. Only two things seem to offer potential excitement: the upcoming Christmas festivities and her ex, James Lacey. This year she is sure that if she invites James to a really splendid, old-fashioned Christmas dinner, their love will rekindle like a warm Yule log. When a wealthy widow hires Agatha because she's convinced a member of her family is trying to kill her, Agatha is intrigued--especially when the widow drops dead after high tea at the manor house. Agatha sets out to find the murderer, all the while managing a pretty, teenage trainee who makes her feel old and planning for a picture-perfect Christmas, with James, all the trimmings, and perhaps even snow.